



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

## WHY WE NEED MORE STEM CELL LINES

PART I IN A SERIES ON THE PROMISE OF STEM CELL RESEARCH

December 14, 2004

Dear Colleague,

Over the past year, scientists throughout the world have made significant progress in embryonic stem cell research -- from the development of uncontaminated lines by Dr. Douglas Melton at Harvard to the isolation of disease-specific stem cell lines at the Chicago Fertility Clinic to the advancements in South Korea with regards to nuclear transfer. The recent passage of Proposition 71 in California shows that the public supports this research and believes in investing in this science.

To provide information on these scientific developments and explain this promising and complex science, we have authored a series of Dear Colleague letters. We would like to provide you with more information on the value of embryonic stem cell research and the limitations of the current federal policy. It is our hope that this information will be a resource to you and your staff as you navigate the current state of research and the different arguments in the national debate.

We look forward to sharing new developments in the field of embryonic stem cell research and continuing to work with you on this issue that has the potential to help so many Americans today and generations to come.

In Congress, the bipartisan support for embryonic stem cell research is evidenced by the more than 200 Representatives and 58 Senators who signed letters to President Bush in support of expanding the current federal policy. In addition, more than 190 of you have joined us as cosponsors of the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act."

We will continue to work to ensure that the full potential of stem cell research is explored. For more information or to cosponsor the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act" in the next Congress, please contact Elizabeth Wenk with Rep. Castle (5-4165) or Meghan Taira with Rep. DeGette (5-4431).

Sincerely,

DIANA DeGETTE  
Member of Congress

MICHAEL CASTLE  
Member of Congress